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ADDRESSEE: Commissioner for Patents  
(703) 872-9306 Group 1771SENDER: David JohnsPHONE NUMBER: 928 / 864-4800  
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please call 928/864-2550 as soon as possible.Operator: Melanee Williams Date: January 23, 2004\*\*\*\*\*  
COMMENTS:We enclose the attached papers for filing in the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office in  
connection with Patent Application Serial No. 09/369,231\*\*\*\*\*  
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Attorney Docket No. MP/143

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Walter  
Appl. No. : 09/369,231  
Filed : August 5, 1999  
Title : Surface Modified Expanded  
Polytetrafluoroethylene Devices and  
Methods of Producing the Same  
Group Art Unit: 1771  
Examiner : H. Vo

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Melanee Williams

Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

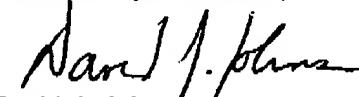
**LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL**

Dear Sir:

We enclose the following papers for filing in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified Patent Application:

1. Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 (3 pages)
2. Supplemental Declaration of James Walter (4 pages) and Attachment (5 pages)

Respectfully Submitted,

  
David J. Johns  
Reg. No. 31,527  
W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.  
551 Paper Mill Road, P.O. Box 9206  
Newark, DE 19714-9206  
(928) 864-4800

Date: 1/23/04

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*Melanee Williams*  
Melanee Williams

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF JULY 25, 2003

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.111, applicant responds to the Office Action of July 25, 2003, as follows.

Applicant hereby requests a three-month extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.137. The Examiner is hereby requested and authorized to charge the appropriate fee to assignee's Deposit Account No. 07-1729.